

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /022 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/HDC:RANDREW

APPROVED BY:IO/HDC:RANDREW

NEA/RA/SHOLLY

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R 152338Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0000

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062720

FOLLOWING GENEVA 1833 SENT ACTION SECSTATE MAR 10 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1833

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO, OCON, XF

SUBJ: WHO: MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AT NEXT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

REF: STATE 49408

1. SUMMARY: CHAIRMAN OF WHO SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF
EXPERTS, DR. I. WONE (SENEGAL), ACCOMPANIED BY WHO DEPUTY LEGAL
ADVISOR VIGNES, IS PRESENTLY ON VISIT IN ISRAEL, OSTENSIBLY
TO PURSUE DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE VISIT BY FULL THREE-
MEMBER COMMITTEE. RONN REPORTED THAT ISRAEL HAD RES-
PONDED TO OTHER ASPECT OF 1975 RESOLUTION BY REQUESTING
WHO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS FOR OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES. HE WAS SKEPTICAL, HOWEVER, ABOUT
WHAT EFFECT EITHER DEVELOPMENT MIGHT HAVE ON HANDLING
OF MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY IN
MAY, AND COMPLAINED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT MAHLER
IS NOT A "STRONG POLITICAL PERSONALITY." RONN
DID NOT THINK ARABS HAVE YET DECIDED WHETHER TO
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WORK FOR CONDEMNATION OR SUSPENSION UNDER ARTICLE 7,

BUT SAW REAL RISK OF LATTER, AS ARABS MAY REGARD WHO AS VULNERABLE FORUM IN WHICH GROUNDWORK HAS BEEN LAID, AND GOI IS TAKING WHAT STEPS IT CAN TO TRY TO COUNTER THIS. THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE AN OCCASION ON WHICH WE SHOULD MAKE OUR VIEWS CLEARLY KNOWN IN CAPITALS BEFORE DELEGATIONS DEPART, PREFERABLY IN CONTEXT OF BROADER CONSULTATION ON ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR (ACCOMPANIED BY POLCONS AND WHO LIAISON OFFICER) MET WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR RONN (AND COUNSELOR RAEI) MARCH 9 PURSUANT TO REFTTEL AND IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS OUTLINED IN FEBRUARY 5 EHRlich TO ANDREW MEMO. RONN DESCRIBED "NEGOTIATIONS" HE HAD HAD IN JANUARY WITH CHAIRMAN OF WHO SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS, WONE (SENEGAL), IN WHICH HE HAD TRIED TO PERSUADE THREE MEMBER COMMITTEE TO VISIT ISRAEL AND CARRY OUT INSPECTION TOUR OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN PERSONAL CAPACITIES RATHER THAN AS REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS. RONN STATED GOI PREPARED TO RECEIVE EXPERTS FROM ANYWHERE (EVEN ARABS HE EMPHASIZED) WHETHER THEIR COUNTRIES RECOGNIZED ISRAEL OR NOT, BUT COULD NOT ACCEPT THEM AS REPRESENTATING GOVERNMENTS WHICH DO NOT RECOGNIZE ISRAEL. HE INDICATED HE HAD MADE PROGRESS WITH WONE ON THIS, BUT WHEN NDIA YE THEREAFTER PRESENTED FORMULA TO OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE (ROMANIAN AND INDONESIAN) HE WAS UNABLE TO BRING THEM AROUND TO ACCEPT IT. RONN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF RESOLUTION CLEARLY ANTICIPATED EXPERTS WOULD VISIT AS REPRESENTATIVES OF STATES.

3. RONN SAID HE HAD PRESSED ON WITH WONE, HOWEVER, AND SUCCEEDED IN END IN PERSUADING HIM TO ACCEPT INVITATION (EXTENDED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ISRAELI MINISTRY OF HEALTH) TO VISIT ISRAEL HIMSELF, OSTENSIBLY TO PURSUE DISCUSSION WITH ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ABOUT POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMITTEE VISIT. WONE ARRIVED IN ISRAEL MARCH 6. (AS HE IS TRAVELING AT WHO EXPENSE IN HIS CAPACITY AS SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, HIS VISIT CONSTITUTES TO THIS LIMITED

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EXTENT OFFICIAL VISIT TO ISRAEL UNDER SPECIAL COMMITTEE MANDATE.) RONN TOOK EVIDENT PLEASURE IN HAVING ADVANCED THINGS TO THIS POINT, AND THOUGHT IT SIGNIFICANT THAT WONE WAS MAKING VISIT IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF HIS COMMITTEE COLLEAGUES. ACCORDING TO RONN MAHLER ASSIGNED ASSOCIATE CHIEF OF WHO LEGAL OFFICE, VIGNES, TO ACCOMPANY WONE.

4. RONN UNDERSTOOD WONE WOULD REMAIN IN ISRAEL FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK AND EXPECTED ITINERARY WOULD INCLUDE VISITS TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ALTHOUGH PLEASED WITH PROGRESS MADE WITH WONE, RONN AND RAEI BOTH EXPRESSED GREAT SKEPTICISM WHETHER VISIT MIGHT HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AT NEXT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY. ISRAELIS ARE NOT AT ALL SURE HOW WONE PLANS TO PROCEED THEREAFTER, HOW HE PLANS TO REPORT ON VISIT AND TO WHOM, OR WHETHER HE PLANS TO REPORT AT ALL.

5. TURNING TO OTHER ASPECT OF WHO RESOLUTIONS, RONN INFORMED US GOI HAD INVITED WHO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS TO BE CONDUCTED IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND SAID TWO WHO OFFICIALS PRESENTLY IN ISRAEL TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR THIS. HE HOPED THIS MOVE WOULD HAVE SOME AMELIORATING EFFECT AT ASSEMBLY.

6. RONN SAID HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED GENERAL ISSUE WITH MAHLER SINCE JANUARY, BUT INDICATED INTENTION TODO SO ONCE AGAIN FOLLOWING WONE VISIT TO ISRAEL AND RETURN OF ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISOR FROM IT. HE REPEATED HIS COMPLAINT, HOWEVER, THAT MAHLER IS NOT A "STRONG POLITICAL PERSONALITY" AND IS INCLINED TO LET POLITICAL ISSUES RIDE FORWARD UNCHANNELLED. AMBASSADOR DALE CONCURRED THAT MAHLER SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT BY "KEEPING HANDS OFF" POLITICAL QUESTIONS HE IN FACT INVITES DAMAGE TO ORGANIZATION.

7. LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY ASSEMBLY RONN GAVE HIS OPINION THAT ARABS HAVE NOT YET MADE UP THEIR MINDS WHETHER TO WORK FOR ANOTHER CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTION OR FOR "SUSPENSION" OF ISRAEL UNDER ARTICLE VII OF WHO CONSTITUTION. HE OBSERVED THAT ARABS HAD MANAGED

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TO EMBODY LANGUAGE FROM ARTICLE VII IN TEXT OF 1975 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION AND REGARDED THIS AS CAREFULLY PLACED STEPPING STONE TOWARD SUSPENSION. RONN AND RAEI BOTH MINIMIZED ADVANTAGES ISRAEL MIGHT EXPECT TO EXTRACT FROM ITS GESTURES (TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INVITATION AND VISIT OF WONE), AND EMPHASIZED INSTEAD THEIR OPINION THAT ARABS WOULD BE ABLE TO ORCHESTRATE BLOC VOTING PRETTY MUCH AS THEY CHOSE AT ASSEMBLY. IN SUM, ISRAEL BELIEVES ARABS REGARD WHO AS VULNERABLE FORUM WHERE GROUND HAS BEEN CAREFULLY PREPARED (STEPPINGSTONE ABOVE) WHERE PLO IS COMFORTABLY SEATED (AS OBSERVER), WHERE ACTION OF THIS SORT CAN BE TAKEN LESS VISIBLY THEN IN UNGA, AND WHERE THEY HAVE PROSPECT, THEREFORE, OF ESTABLISHING PRECEDENT OF SUSPENSION OF ISRAELI FROM A UN SYSTEMORGANIZATION.

8. WHEN DISCUSSION TURNED TO STEPS ISRAEL NOW CONTEMPLATING, HOWEVER, RONN LEFT IMPRESSION THAT GOI IS ANYTHING BUT RESIGNED TO SUCH AN OUTCOME. BASICALLY GOI HOPES TO FIND WAY TO CUT AFRICANS AWAY FROM ARABS ON ANY EXTREME MOVES ON THIS ISSUE. (OVERTURES TO WONE IMPORTANT IN THIS CONTEXT.) WHILE ISRAELI RELATIONS WITH AFRICANS GENERALLY SOUR ON POLITICAL LEVEL, RONN SAW RAY OF HOPE IN RESIDUAL GOODWILL ISRAEL ENJOYS AMONG AFRICAN MEDICAL CIRCLES AS RESULT OF ITS ASSISTANCE PROJECTS. ISRAELI MEDICAL ASSOCIATION IS CONTACTING ITS COUNTERPARTS WHEREVER POSSIBLE, AND ISRAELI MEDICAL PERSONALITIES ARE BEING ENCOURAGED TO FOCUS ATTENTION OF PERSONAL CONTACTS ABROAD ON PENDING THREAT OF SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL FROM WORLD HEALTH BODY. RONN SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT GOI HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FOREIGN MINISTRIES ABOUT ISSUE, BUT SO FAR ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS REGARDING BROAD IMPLICATIONS ISRAELI SUSPENSION IN WHO COULD BE EXPECTED TO HAVE THROUGHOUT UN SYSTEM. HE SAID STRATEGY MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO BEHELD IN FOREIGN MINISTRY ON RETURN OF FOREIGN MINISTER FROM US VISIT.

9. COMMENT: ISRAEL APPEARS TO BE TAKING SUCH INITIATIVES AS IT FINDSPOLITICALLY FEASIBLE TO DO. WHILE WE WOULD AGREE THAT INITIATIVE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
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AND VISIT BY WONE DEFINITELY WILL NOT OF THEMSELVES BE SUFFICIENT TO DEFUSE MIDDLE EAST ISSUE AT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, THEY DO POSITION ISRAEL IN REASONABLY POSITIVE POSTURE AND SHOULD HAVE SOME POTENTIAL FOR WEAKENING, OR CONFUSING, THRUST OF ARAB ARGUMENTS. WHILE IT MAY BE PREMATURE TO ACT UNTIL ARAB INTENTIONS ARE BETTER DEFINED, THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE AN OCCASSION ON WHICH WE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR IN CAPITALS WELL BEFORE DELEGATIONS DEPART THE BROAD IMPLICATIONS OF ANY SUSPENSION MOVE AND THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE WOULD REGARD IT. APPROACHES MIGHT BE KEPT TO THOSE CAPITALS IN WHICH WE CANN REASONABLY HOPE THEY WOULD HAVE EFFECT, AND MIGHT BEST BE PRESENTED IN CONTEXT OF SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF MORE THAN JUST THIS WHO ASSEMBLY QUESTION.

10. WE RECOGNIZE WISH OF MAHLER TO KEEP HIS ROLE TO MINIMUM (REFTEL PARA 2) BUT DO FEEL THAT AS CUSTODIAN OF INTERESTS OF ORGANIZATION HE CANNOT BE PERMITTED THIS LUXURY. IN FACT, BY DETAILING VIGNES TO ACOMPANY WONE TO ISRAEL (FOR PURPOSE OF FURTHER NEGOTIATING TERMS FOR POSSIBLE VISIT BY COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS) HE

WOULD APPEAR TO US TO BE INTO THIS THINK UP TO HIS
ARMPITS. WHAT MAHLER DOES (OR DOES NOT) DO FROM THIS
POINT ON CAN BE IMPORTANT FACTOR. UNLESS INSTRUCTED
OTHERWISE, THEREFORE, ONCE VIGNES HAS RETURNED FROM
ISRAEL AND REPORTED TO HIM I WILL PLAN CALL ON MAHLER
TO SEE WHERE WE ARE.

11. SUGGEST DEPT REPEAT THIS MESSAGE AND PREVIOUS
TO EMBASSY TEL AVIV, SO THAT WE MAY HAVE BENEFIT OF ITS
INPUT AS ISSUE MATURES, AND TO USUN. DALE UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, VISITS, COMMITTEES, POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS, RESOLUTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE062720
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IO/HDC:RANDREW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760098-0784
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760359/aaaabzzf.tel
Line Count: 234
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 49408
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHO: MIDDLE EAST QUESTION AT NEXT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
TAGS: OCON, PFOR, XF, IS, WHO, (WONE, I)
To: USUN NEW YORK TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006